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Historical News

By the INDIANA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The annual spring meeting of the Henry County historical society was held in Newcastle, Thursday, April 27. An all-day program had been arranged, including the usual big dinner which always forms a valuable part of the historical program. The Henry County historical society is one of the few in the state that owns its own home. Several years ago the society purchased the home of General Grose, and it has been converted into a historical museum. Under the direction of Clarence H. Smith, recently appointed curator, the historical society has grown greatly in membership, and the museum collection is rapidly becoming one of the best in Indiana. Over two hundred persons attended the annual spring meeting.

The Carroll County historical society held its first public meeting on Friday night, April 28. One of the special features of the program was a large painting giving an artist's view of pioneer Carroll county. It depicted the coming of the white settlers into Carroll county, the deportation of the Potawatommie Indians, the opening up of the first white settlements, and contained a list of the first settlers in the county. A valuable collection of pioneer relics furnished by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Buckley was on display. Talks by Mrs. John W. Ballard of Logansport on Songs of the Pioneers, and by Dr. John W. Oliver on The Value of the Study of Local History were given. Special plans for organization of township historical committees are being carried on throughout Carroll county.

Of the county historical societies in Indiana, none are doing more valuable work than the Jefferson County society. Its membership is over three hundred, with annual dues of one dollar (\$1.00). The old Lanier home, recently converted into an historical museum, is visited by more than five hundred people yearly. Among some of the most valuable collections housed in the museum are: Copy of first issue of the *Western*

Eagle, dated May 5, 1813, Madison, Indiana Territory; a copy of the New York *Daily Gazette*, May 1, 1789, containing an account of Washington's first inauguration as President; a copy of the *Madison Museum*, 1832, probably the first literary periodical in Indiana; the original marriage certificate of Sarah Tittle Barrett and Nathaniel Bolton, 1832; minute book of the Bronte Club, the second woman's club in America, founded by Mrs. Constance Fauntleroy Runcie, 1867; documents bearing the original signatures of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren, Abraham Lincoln, Oliver P. Morton and others. Jefferson county is also one of the leading counties in conducting the archaeological and historical survey. Mrs. Michael C. Garber, president, is in charge of collecting its valuable historical material.

The Marshal Foch Day Volume issued by the Indiana Historical Commission has come from the press and been distributed. In this volume is to be found a report of all the exercises held in Indianapolis during Marshal Foch's visit, November 4, 1921. A report of all the addresses made on that day, an account of the different meetings held, pictures and photographs of the parade, and other public exercises given in the Marshal's honor, are included in the publication. A copy of the publication has been placed in each of the public libraries in Indiana, and in the high school libraries.

On Saturday, April 8th, a meeting celebrating the centennial anniversary of the establishment of the Decatur County bar association, was held in Greensburg. Judge John F. Goddard, president of the Decatur County historical society, and Judge John R. Carney of Vernon, president of the Jennings County historical society, were responsible for this historical celebration. Judges and prominent members of the bar residing in the Fourth district attended this meeting, at which papers were read recounting a century's growth in the legal profession in that part of Indiana.

A joint meeting of the historical societies of St. Joseph, Laporte, Porter, and Lake counties, was held on Sunday after-

noon, June 18th, in connection with the Dune summer camp program on the shores of Lake Michigan in Porter county. Papers read by representatives of each of the county historical societies emphasized the importance of the study of the history of the Dunes. An historical pilgrimage to the home of Joseph de Bailley, the first white homestead in northern Indiana, was one of the features of the program.

Among relics brought before the Orange County historical society at a recent meeting, was a textbook 175 years old. The book, Dillworth's *Assistant to Teachers*, was published in London, England, in 1747, and is believed to be the oldest book in the county. Aaron Maris, a descendent of a pioneer family, produced some interesting relics, including the copy of a land grant to one of his ancestors that was originally signed by William Penn, land patents signed by President Van Buren and some ancient marriage certificates.

Indianapolis News, February 25, 1922.

The passing of old Indiana newspapers, particularly those of a century's growth or more, deserves notice among the historical items of the state. The old Vevay *Reveille* established in 1816, the year in which Indiana was admitted to the Union, and which is said to have had a record of not missing an issue in the 106 years of its publication, was recently sold to Earl S. Brown, publisher of the Vevay *Enterprise*. The old *Reveille* is said to have been the second oldest weekly newspaper in Indiana.

Spencer County In The World War is the title of a manuscript war history recently filed with the Indiana historical commission. Mrs. Helen R. Swan, chairman of the War History committee, has succeeded in obtaining reports on all the organizations that took part in war work during the years 1917-1919. A valuable part of the Spencer County war history collection consists of six scrap books filled with newspaper clippings relating to Spencer county's part in the World war. Miss Blanche Kercheval assisted Mrs. Swan in collecting and preparing these valuable newspaper references.

The State library has received from Mrs. John H. Holliday as part of the gift of John H. Holliday, the manuscripts of three diaries of John Tipton: The Journal of John Tipton,

Tippecanoe Battle Campaign 1811; Journal of John Tipton of an expedition to the vicinity of Vallonia (now in Jackson County) of Harrison County Rangers in July, 1812, to protect citizens from the hostile Indians while pulling their flax; Journal of John Tipton of tour in 1820 to fix the seat of government of the State of Indiana. Two or three years before Mr. Holliday's death, he had deposited in the State library as the property of the state, his collection on the Civil war. This he had been gathering for many years. It is one of the best in the middle West. The pamphlet collection is of particular interest because these bear especially on the military prisons of the Civil war period and are rare, and secondly, there are many items on the Gettysburg campaign in which Mr. Holliday was deeply interested. There are memoirs and biographies of the principal generals on both sides, many volumes on Lincoln, a set of *Vanity Fair* of 1860, 1861 and 1862, the proceedings of the soldiers' societies of both sides, regimental histories and biographies of the public men of that day. In addition there are collections of pamphlets on the government of Indiana, particularly the charities of the state, in which Mr. Holliday was always active. There are about 1,500 volumes in this gift. In the discretion of the librarian these items may be loaned, but they are primarily for reference.

The number of the South Bend *Tribune* for March 9, 1922 is a hundred page golden anniversary edition. The paper contains many interesting articles and pictures relating to the early history of South Bend.

The Ft. Wayne historical society held its first quarterly meeting of the year April 4. The program included a dinner, followed by an historical pageant. As announced on the program the pageant was given to honor the Peltiers—Fort Wayne's first pioneer family, depicting scenes in their subsequent life with faithfulness to historical facts as these are now obtainable. The prologue, written by Mrs. A. J. Detzer, described the coming of the Peltiers "merest lads were they both" in 1787; the arrival in the summer of 1804 of the beautiful Angeline Chapeteau, and the welcome given to her by the people living in and near the Old Fort. Mrs. Samuel Taylor

was the author of the pageant proper, which was divided into five episodes and twelve scenes. The musical program was arranged by Mrs. Will H. W. Peltier, pianist, and Mrs. Florence Cleary, soloist. The pageant was directed by Ross Lockridge, Vice-President of the Society, and the character interpretations were given by the Indiana University Extension public speaking classes. The program emphasized three things: the importance of family histories; the necessity for trained speakers; and the value of the pageant in teaching history.

On January 28, 1921, the Indiana Historical Commission received a letter from the secretary of the Northern Indiana historical society, in which the information was given that the society had been asleep for a few years, but signs of renewed activity were evidenced in the electing of new officers, and the securing of an appropriation to be expended in buying furniture and cases to furnish the rooms of the society which had been permanently located in the old court house of St. Joseph county. Through the efforts of the new officers, Dr. H. T. Montgomery, president, John A. Hibberd, secretary, and Frank A. Stover, treasurer, a bill was presented to the General Assembly of 1919, which would make it possible for historical societies having a collection of records, papers, and historical relics, to obtain an appropriation from the county commissioners for the employment of a curator to take charge of the rooms and collections of the societies, and make them available to the public. Credit is due to the Northern historical society for the passage of Senate Bill 190.

On March 1, of this year, the county commissioners of St. Joseph county made the appropriation provided for in the bill, and upon the recommendation of the society Mrs. Eva Hoffman was employed as curator. The rooms of the society are now open three days in the week, and the work of cataloging and classifying the collections of the Society is going forward rapidly under the direction of Mrs. Hoffman. One annual meeting of the society is held each year, with special meetings at the call of the president. The annual meeting of this year was held on the evening of April 7. One of the interesting features of the program was a talk by George Brennan, of

Chicago, an authority on northern Indiana history, and the author of a book on the *Dunes of Northern Indiana* which is now in the hands of the publisher. A representative of the Indiana historical commission was present and gave an informal talk on the work of the commission in co-operation with local historical societies. Talks were made by Dr. H. T. Montgomery and local members of the society. A committee was appointed to take up the work of compiling a history of St. Joseph county's part in the World war, in manuscript form for publication.

The regular monthly meeting of the Washington County historical society was held March 25. A memorial service was a part of the program in honor of a former citizen and president of the Old Settlers society, Lewis N. Smith. The biographical sketch was read by Mrs. Asa Elliott, together with a letter from Dr. S. W. Smith of Leesville, a son of the deceased, who gave to the society two Bibles over one hundred years old, formerly the property of his father. A sketch of the life of Col. S. D. Sayles was read by his daughter, Mrs. Martha L. Hobbs; and a paper on the Mounds of Howard Township by S. H. Mitchell. This paper was prepared in connection with the archeological and historical survey which Washington county is making for the state. Many relics were received, consisting of old newspapers, manuscripts, coins and photographs.